The price list for the articles of diet supplied to the medical institutions at Trichur.

230. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the contractor supplying articles of dietary to the different medical institutions at Trichur in the current year is one person ; (b) will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the price list as accepted by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer for the articles of diet from the contractor on contracts referred to in the previous question ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V Verghese.—(a) Yes. (b) The price list is placed on the table. (*Vide Appendix V.*)

Invoices received from Messrs. Dadha & Co.

231. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the invoices received from Messrs. Dadha & Co., for medicines supplied to the General Hospital, Ernakulam, in 1101 ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The invoices are placed on the Council Secretary's table for reference.

Supply of medicines to the Veterinary Department.

232. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.— Will the Government be pleased to state —

(a) who supplies the medicines required for the Veterinary Department of the State, and if the prices of the drugs are the same as those of the Medical Department ;

(b) if the suppliers are Messrs. Dadha & Co., will the Government be pleased to state whether the supplies are made independently to the Veterinary Department or through the Medical Department ;

(c) if the suppliers are not Messrs. Dadha & Co., will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the agreement entered into between the Veterinary Department and the suppliers?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) Messrs. Dadha & Co., Madras. Yes, the prices are the same.

(b) Through the Medical Department.

(c) Vide anwer to (b). No answer is necessary.

The Korayar Ferry.

233. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—(1) under whose control is the ferry over the Korayar near Erutempati in Chittur Taluk;

(2) whether any person is appointed to conduct the ferry;

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(3) if the answer to (2) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to make enquiries why there were none at the ferry on the 1st November when there were freshes in the river;

(4) will the Government be pleased to state if its attention has been drawn to the fact that the boat on the shore is being ruined by exposure to sun and rain and the shed purported to house the boat is being eaten away by white ants by non-user?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—

(1) The Public Works Department.

(2) No. There is only a watchman to look after the boat and the shed.

(3) In view of the answer to (2) above, no reply is necessary.

(4) The Chittur Overseer and the Assistant Engineer inspect the boat and the shed now and then. They have never seen the shed eaten by white ants. Whenever freshes are expected in the river, the boat has to be kept outside the shed. Exposure to a short period during such times is inevitable.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Was the boat ever kept in the shed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is now reported to be in the shed.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Perhaps, within these 10 days. The question was sent last time.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The boat was kept in the shed on 1 th January 1927. As no freshes were likely to come in the river, the boat has been taken to the shed.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—That shed was never used till now.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The boat was kept outside from Chingam onwards.

President.—Was the boat ever used?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Only one day on the 1st of November, when there was a flood.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There was water only for a day, and there was no use of taking it outside. How can the boat be used, when there is no water?

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—It is said that only a watchman was kept there.

President.—Was the boat exposed to sun and rain?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No, it was not.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Yes, I have witnessed it

President.—What have you to say to the contrary?

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Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I want to know how the boat can be used, when there is nobody appointed for the purpose There was only one watchman, and so how can it be used? My question was whether anybody was appointed, and it cannot be used even now, because they have not even tightened the rope. The boat is used, when there is water, but when there is water, there will be no boatman.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—But the flood continues only for a week or a month.

President.—The people will have to cross the ferry. How do they manage?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sometimes, the flood lasts only for a few hours.

President.—Suppose it is only a matter of a few hours, we cannot wait all the time on one side of the ferry.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Only about some 6 carts pass in a day. So we thought it better to have a *changadam* (ചങ്ങാടം). But if there is flood, it will last only for a few hours. Well, it is not worth the trouble.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—If it is not to be used, why should a boat be kept there? It can be taken to some other place.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There will be rain during the south-west monsoon. The origin of the boat was the Erutempati Panchayat requesting to have a bridge over the Varatta river.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I wanted to have a bridge.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The Panchayat wanted to have a bridge. But the river is in floods only for about 3 or 4 hours in a year. We shall have to spend some money over a bridge which will cost about 15 to 20 thousand rupees, and that, in a place where there are only about 4 to 5,000 people and only a little traffic. It was considered, and the Government thought it well to start a ferry service there, and see whether it will answer the purpose. Well, accordingly, we have started a ferry service there early this year. But we cannot use the boat during the November freshes.

President.—So the only point to be admitted is that the boat must be taken proper care of, without exposing it to the sun and rain.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—What is the rope for?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The rope is to steady the boat from going away, when there are freshes.

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